

Management system for a building or for one or more rooms in a building

5 The invention relates to a management system for a building or for one or more rooms in a building in accordance with the preamble of Patent Claim 1.

10 Management systems of the type mentioned at the beginning serve principally for temperature control. Thus, such management systems can be used to set the temperature of each room in the building to an individual level.

15 Known management systems have at least one control center and at least two components connected to the control center by radio. The control center receives signals from the components or transmits signals to the components. The signals are transmitted within a prescribed frequency range. Since other units operated 20 inside the building also very frequently work within the prescribed frequency range, interference can arise between colliding signals. Because of this, known management systems enjoy only an inadequate reliability with regard to the transmission of signals between the 25 control center and the components.

30 Starting from this point, the invention is therefore based on the problem of providing a management system having more reliable signal transmission.

35 To solve this problem, the management system named at the beginning is defined in that each signal is transmitted at at least two different frequencies within the frequency range, at least one of these frequencies being outside the partial frequency range of the frequency range.

The prescribed frequency range is preferably a high frequency band, in particular an ISM band. A partial frequency range within this high frequency band is usually used by the other units operated inside the building. The invention is therefore based on the fundamental idea that the signals to be transmitted between the control center and components can be transmitted redundantly at at least two frequencies, at least one of these frequencies being outside the partial frequency range used for signal transmission by the remaining units operated inside a building. This increases the reliability of the transmission of signals between the control center and the components.

15 Preferred developments of the invention follow from the subclaims and the description. An exemplary embodiment of the invention is explained in more detail below with the aid of the drawings, in which:

20 Figure 1 shows a block diagram of the management system according to the invention with a control center and a plurality of components;

25 Figure 2 shows in a heavily schematic illustration, a transmitter assigned to the control center and some of the components of the management system in accordance with Figure 1;

30 Figure 3 shows, in a heavily schematic illustration, a receiver assigned to the control center and some of the components of the management system in accordance with Figure 1;

35 Figure 4 shows a block diagram of the transmitter in accordance with Figure 2;

Figure 5 shows a block diagram of the receiver in accordance with Figure 3;

Figure 6 shows a frequency range used by the management system according to the invention in accordance with Figure 1 for the purpose of signal transmission; and

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Figure 7 shows the interplay between a transmitter and a receiver in the case of signal transmission within the management system according to the invention.

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The management system illustrated in the drawing serves for individually controlling a temperature level in a building or in one or more rooms in the building. Moreover, such a management system can also be used to 15 control the lighting inside the building and to control the roller shutters of the building. Moreover, the energy expended on controlling the individual temperature level is evaluated.

20 Figure 1 shows a preferred design of the management system according to the invention, having a control center and a plurality of components. The control center 10 is also denoted as compartment manager. The components are different modules. The components 11 are

25 so-called temperature controllers, which serve for monitoring the temperature level in a room to be controlled, and for setting the desired value of this temperature level via a corresponding setting element 12. The components 13 are electronic heating

30 element valves, with the aid of which the heat output of so-called radiator heating elements can be set. The component 14 is a so-called floor heating controller for setting the heat output of a floor heating system. The components 15 are lighting devices, and the 35 components 16 are roller shutters. Finally, the components 17 are so-called heating cost distributors which are used to monitor the heat output from the heating system.

In the simplest case, the management system according to the invention is provided only with the control center 10 and the components 11, 13. The management system according to the invention can be extended at will by coupling the components 14, 15, 16 and 17 and further components (not illustrated).

The components 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 are connected to the control center 10 by radio. Consequently, the control center 10 exchanges information or data with the components 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17. The arrows 18 in Figure 1 illustrate the direction of signal flow between the components and the control center 10. Consequently, the signal transmission between the components 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and the control center 10 is a unidirectional data exchange. The control center 10 therefore receives signals or data from the components 11, 17. Moreover, the control center 10 transmits signals or data to the components 13, 14, 15, and 16.

In order to transmit signals, each component 11 and the control center 10 are assigned corresponding transmitters 19. In order to receive signals, the components 13, 14, 15, 16 and the control center 10 are assigned corresponding receivers. The components 17 likewise have transmitters, but these are not illustrated further in Figure 1.

Figure 2 shows a heavily schematic illustration of the transmitters 19 used in the components 11 and in the control center 10. The transmitter 19 has two inputs 21, 22 and an output 23. The data or signals to be transmitted are present at the input 22. After the signals have been processed in the transmitter 19, they are made available to the output 23 and to an antenna 24 connected to the output 23. The input 21 is

a serial interface (the so-called channel control), which serves for programming channels of the transmitter 19.

5 In order to illustrate the mode of operation of the transmitter 19 in accordance with Figure 2, reference is made below to Figure 4. Figure 4 shows in turn the two inputs 21, 22, of the output 23 and the antenna 24 connected to the output 23. The data to be transmitted
10 are fed to an oscillator 25 via the input 22. The oscillator 25 is an oscillator, a so-called voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO), whose output frequency 26 can be controlled via its input voltage 27. Since the transmitter 19 is intended to transmit as far as
15 possible at a precise frequency, the output frequency 26 of the oscillator 25 must be as accurate as possible. For this purpose, the output frequency 26 of the oscillator 25 is fed to a comparator 28 which compares the output frequency 26 with an auxiliary
20 frequency 29 or a reference frequency. In the event of a deviation between the output frequency 26 and the auxiliary frequency 29, the comparator 28 changes its output voltage and thus the input voltage 27 of the oscillator 25. This ensures that the output
25 frequency 26 is as accurate as possible. The auxiliary frequency 29 is made available to the comparator 28 via an oscillator, specifically a quartz oscillator 30. The output signal 26 of the oscillator 25, or the signal to be transmitted is fed to the antenna 24 via an
30 amplifier 31 and via a filter 32 connected downstream of the amplifier 31.

A receiver 20 used in the control center 10 and in the components 13, 14, 15, 16 is shown in a coarsely
35 schematic way in Figure 3. The receiver 20 has two inputs 33, 34 and an output 35. Connected to the input 34 is an antenna 36 which receives the signal to be received by the receiver 20. The input 33 is, in

turn, a serial interface (the so-called channel control), which serves for programming the channels of the receiver 20. The signals or data received by the receiver 20 are made available to the respective 5 component via the output 35. It is possible to provide as an option a further output 37 from which, for example, additional information on the field strength of the receiver 27 can be extracted.

10 The functional principle of the receiver 20 in accordance with Figure 3 follows from the block diagram in accordance with Figure 5. The inputs 33, 34, the antenna 36 connected to the input 34, and the outputs 35, 37 of the receiver 20 are shown here, in turn. The task of the receiver 20 is to filter the signal to be received at a specific frequency out of the frequency band captured via the antenna 36 and present at the input 34. For this purpose, the signal present at the input 34 is led via two filters 38, 39 15 and an amplifier 40 connected between the filters 38, 39. An output signal of the filter 39 is mixed with an output frequency 41 of an oscillator 42 in a mixer 43, and the output signal of the latter is filtered in a filter 44. In order for the output frequency 41 of the 20 oscillator 42 to be as accurate as possible, this frequency is compared, in turn, in a comparator 45 with an auxiliary frequency 46 which is made available by a quartz oscillator 47. The oscillator 42 is, in turn, a so-called voltage-controlled oscillator. The filtered 25 output signal of the mixer 43 is mixed in a second mixer 48 with the auxiliary frequency 46 of the quartz oscillator 47. The output signal thereof is then filtered in a further filter 49, amplified in an amplifier 50 and demodulated in a demodulator 51. 30 Before being provided at the output 35, the output signal of this demodulator is amplified, in turn, in a further amplifier 52 and filtered in a filter 53 connected downstream thereof.

Because of the double mixing of the multiply filtered signals present at the input 34, the receiver 20 is a so-called superheterodyne receiver.

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According to the invention, the signals to be transmitted and to be received by the components 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and by the control center 10 are transmitted in a prescribed frequency range 54.

10 Figure 6 shows this frequency range 54, which is a high frequency range, specifically an ISM band. The frequency range 54 is therefore between 433.05 MHz and 434.79 MHz.

15 A partial frequency range 55 of the frequency range 54 is usually already commercially used in some other way. Thus, most units operated in a building and communicating by radio transmit in this partial frequency range 55. This partial frequency range 55 is 20 between 433.60 MHz and 434.40 MHz. The partial frequency range 55 is therefore positioned or arranged approximately about the band center frequency of the frequency range 54.

25 In order to avoid collisions between the signals to be received or to be transmitted by the control center 10 and the components 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and signals from other units, and in order thereby to enhance the reliability of the signal transmission of the 30 management system according to the invention, each signal is transmitted at at least two different frequencies within the frequency band 54, at least one of these frequencies being outside the partial frequency range 55 of the frequency range 54. Not only 35 does this ensure redundant signal transmission, it is taken into account, rather, that more reliable signal transmission is possible in the case of transmission of

signals at frequencies above the partial frequency range 55.

5 Since the components 17, the so-called heating cost distributors, can be foreign units, it may be noted here that it is possible for the components 17 also to use only the partial frequency range 55 for signal transmission.

10 In accordance with Figure 6, the frequency band 54 is subdivided into a plurality of channels 56 of identical channel width. These are channels C1 to C32, of which only the channels C1, C5, C10, C15, C20, C25 and C30 are labeled in Figure 6. The channel width of the 15 channels 56 is 50 KHz.

In accordance with Figure 6, the channels C11 to C26 are within the partial frequency range 55. The 20 channels C1 to C10 are below the partial frequency range 55, while the channels C27 to C32 are above it but within the frequency range 54. Consequently, a total of 32 channels with a channel width of 50 KHz are available for signal transmission within the management system according to the invention.

25 Each signal to be transmitted is preferably transmitted at three different frequencies, each of these frequencies being assigned to a different channel 56 within the frequency range 54. At least one of the 30 frequencies or at least one of the relevant channels is outside the partial frequency range 55. Preferably at least a first of the three frequencies or a first of the three channels is below the partial frequency band 55, and at least a second of the three frequencies 35 or a second of the three channels is above the partial frequency band 55.

In detail, the transmitter 19 of the control center 10 transmits the signals, which are to be transmitted to the components 13, specifically to the electronic heating element valves, at three different frequencies, 5 a first frequency being within the channel C1, a second frequency within the channel C5 and a third frequency within the channel C30. The receivers 20, assigned to the transmitter 19 of the control center 10, of the components 13 scans these three channels C1, C5 and C30 10 in order to receive the transmitted signals. Each channel is scanned in this case at a step interval of 10 KHz. Consequently, five scanning steps are required per channel.

15 The transmitters 19 of the components 11, specifically the temperature controller, transmits each signal to be transmitted to the control center 10 in a temporally offset fashion at three different frequencies, a first frequency being within the channel C2, a second 20 frequency within the channel C6 and a third frequency within the channel C29. In turn, the receiver 20, assigned to the transmitters 19 of the components 11, of the control center 10, scans each of these three channels with in each case five scanning steps and a 25 step interval of 10 KHz. The remaining available channels are used in a corresponding way by the components 14, 15, 16, and 17.

Figure 7 shows by way of example the interplay between 30 a transmitter 19 and a receiver 20, the transmitter 19 being the transmitter 19 of the control center 10, and the receiver 20 being a receiver 20 of a component 13, specifically of an electronic heating element valve. Shown under a) in Figure 7 is the channel loading and 35 the transmission response of the transmitter 19 of the control center 10, and shown under b), c), d), and e) of Figure 7 are possible operating states of the receiver 20 of a component 13. In this regard:

The transmitter 19 of the control center 10 transmits each signal, to be transmitted to the components 13, sequentially in time at three different frequencies, each of these three frequencies being assigned to a 5 different channel, specifically the channels 1, 5 and 30, of the frequency range 54. The time required for transmitting the signals on each of the channels is composed in each case of a synchronization component 57 a data component 58 and a channel transfer 10 component 59. A bar 60 in Figure 7 consequently specifies the total transmission time of the control center 10 for the purpose of temporally offset transmission of a signal on three different channels.

15 The actual information of the signal is transmitted during the respective data component 58. The upstream synchronization components 57 serve for compensating the tolerances of the transmitter 19 and receiver 20. It is necessary to make sufficient time available to 20 the receiver 20 in order to find the concrete frequency at which the signal to be transmitted is transmitted within each channel. For this purpose, an appropriate synchronization component 57 is placed before each data component 58. The channel transfer component 59 gives 25 the transmitter 19 sufficient time in order, for example, to change from channel 1 to channel 5 or else from channel 5 to channel 30 so as the signal can be transmitted temporally offset on different channels.

30 Section b) in Figure 7 reproduces a possible operating state of the receiver 20 for the purpose of receiving a signal transmitted by the transmitter 19. In this case, which reproduces the most favorable situation with regard to the operating state of the receiver 20, the 35 transmitting frequency of the transmitter 19 automatically corresponds to the receiving frequency of the receiver 20, with the result that the receiver 20 can receive the signal without prior channel scanning.

The required receiving time of the receiver 20 is therefore limited to a synchronization component 61 and a data component 62, the data component 62 corresponding to the data component 58. The operating 5 time of the receiver 20 for receiving the transmitted signal is the least in this case.

Section c) in Figure 7 shows a further possible operating state of the receiver 20. In this operating 10 state, the transmitting frequency of the transmitter 19 and the receiving frequency of the receiver 20 deviate from one another, with the result that the receiver 20 must scan the channel or each channel for the transmitting frequency. In the worst case, the 15 receiver 20 must scan all three channels and traverse two channel transfers. For this purpose, the receiver 20 requires a time which corresponds to the scanning component 63 illustrated in section c) of Figure 7. The actual transmission of the signal during 20 the data component 62 can be performed only after this scanning component 63. The case in which no channel interference is present, is therefore the worst case with regard to the required receiving time of the receiver 20.

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Sections d) and e) of Figure 7 show further possible operating states of the receiver 20. In terms of principle, the operating state in accordance with section b) corresponds in this case to the operating 30 state in accordance with section d), and the operating state in accordance with section c) corresponds to the operating state in accordance with section e), a channel interference with respect to channel 1 occurring however, in the operating states in 35 accordance with sections d) and e). This co-channel interference is represented in Figure 7 by the hatched region 64.

Section d) relates to the case in which the receive frequency of the receiver 20 corresponds immediately to the transmitter frequency of the transmitter 19, the signal transmission within channel 1 being disturbed, 5 however, as a consequence of a signal collision and/or interference. Because of this, the signal to be transmitted cannot be received during its transmission on channel 1. Consequently, the signal must be received during its transmission on channel 5. The time required 10 for this corresponds to a channel transfer component 65 corresponding to the channel transfer component 59 plus a scanning component 63 and the data component 62. Consequently, the signal is received by the receiver during its transmission on channel 5.

15 The case shown in section e) corresponds to the case shown in section c) with a disturbance of channel 1. Consequently, it is necessary here, as well, to traverse a channel transfer component 65 and a scanning 20 component 63 with reference to channel 5 before the actual signal transmission can be performed during the data component 62.

25 The temporally offset transmission of each signal to be transmitted on different channels ensures that in the event of disturbance of one channel the signal can be received on another channel during its transmission. This increases the reliability of signal transmission. Since, furthermore, at least one of the channels is 30 outside the partial frequency range 55, channel interference is minimized in any case. This further increases the reliability of signal transmission.

List of reference numerals

10	Control center	38	Filter
11	Component	39	Filter
12	Setting element	40	Amplifier
13	Component	41	Output frequency
14	Component	42	Oscillator
15	Component	43	Mixer
16	Component	44	Filter
17	Component	45	Comparator
18	Arrow	46	Auxiliary frequency
19	Transmitter	47	Quartz oscillator
20	Receiver	48	Mixer
21	Input	49	Filter
22	Input	50	Amplifier
23	Output	51	Demodulator
24	Antenna	52	Amplifier
25	Oscillator	53	Filter
26	Output frequency	54	Frequency range
27	Input voltage	55	Partial frequency range
28	Comparator	56	Channel
29	Auxiliary frequency	57	Synchronization component
30	Quartz oscillator	58	Data component
31	Amplifier	59	Channel transfer component
32	Filter	60	Bar
33	Input	61	Synchronization component
34	Input	62	Data component
35	Output	63	Scanning component
36	Antenna	64	Range
37	Output	65	Channel transfer component